

What is claimed is:

1           1. A method of modifying a first user's user  
2       profile for a data-class recommender, comprising the steps  
3       of:

4           receiving feedback from a first user scoring  
5       examples falling into various data-classes;  
6           refining said first user's user profile  
7       responsively to a said feedback;

8           selectively modifying said first user's user  
9       profile responsively to data from a second user's user  
10      profile such that said first user's user profile is made  
11      more similar to said second user's user profile.

1           2. A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of  
2       selectively modifying includes receiving a command from  
3       said first user.

1           3. A method as in claim 1, wherein said first  
2       and second user's user profiles each include a generalized  
3       target description defining a broadest description of  
4       favored data-classes and said step of modifying includes  
5       replacing said generalized description of said first user's  
6       user profile with said generalized description of said  
7       second user's user profile.

1           4. A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of  
2 generalizing includes modifying said first user's user  
3 profile by substituting at least a union of specialized  
4 descriptions of said first user's user profile and said  
5 second user's user profile for said specialized description  
6 of said first user's user profile.

1           5. A method of modifying an implicit-type first  
2 user profile for a data-class recommender that is generated  
3 based on feedback regarding particular data-class choices,  
4 comprising the steps of:

5           labeling features of a second user profile based  
6 on categories of criteria, said second user profile being  
7 an implicit profile generated by providing feedback on  
8 individual selections;

9           displaying labels resulting from said step of  
10 labeling;

11           selecting at least one of said labels;

12           modifying said first user profile responsively to  
13 portions of said second user profile corresponding to said  
14 at least one of said labels.

1           6. A method as in claim 5, wherein said step of  
2 labeling includes identifying first data descriptors that  
3 appear in combination with multiple other second data

4 descriptors and labeling with a label corresponding to said  
5 first data descriptors.

1 7. A method as in claim 5, wherein said step of  
2 labeling includes identifying first data descriptors in a  
3 feature-value-score database for which high scores exist.

1 8. A method of modifying an implicit-type first  
2 user profile, comprising the steps of:

3 combining features of said first user profile  
4 with features of a second user profile to make said first  
5 user profile more like said second user profile;

6 said step of combining including at least one of  
7 replacing a first profile generalized description with a  
8 second profile generalized description, adding at least a  
9 portion of a second profile specialized description to a  
10 first profile specialized description, and modifying scores  
11 of a first profile feature-value-score database  
12 responsively to scores of a second profile feature-value-  
13 score database.